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THE HON. SRI KALA VENKATA RAO :—" (a) Yes. The new scheme provides for the grant of subsidies in South Kanara not only for the construction of new irrigation wells and tanks but also for repairing old irrigation tanks.

" (b) The same provision has been made in the new scheme for Malabar also, and subsidies will be granted in that district for constructing new irrigation tanks and repairing existing irrigation tanks. There is no proposal to grant subsidies in the other districts either for the construction of new tanks or for repairs to old tanks."

(At this stage, the Hon. the President occupied the Chair.)

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I ask the Hon. Minister for Land Revenue whether he will have the question of extending such facilities to other districts examined? " 12 noon.

THE HON. SRI KALA VENKATA RAO :—" The conditions in Malabar and South Kanara being entirely different from other districts this innovation has had to be made there."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Is not the Hon. Minister aware that there are also private tanks and wells besides minor irrigation works in other districts as well? "

THE HON. SRI KALA VENKATA RAO :—" Digging of wells in South Kanara and Malabar is difficult and therefore this extra provision has been made. In other districts it is not so difficult to dig wells. The scheme being entirely for the digging of wells, the question of tanks cannot be considered."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know whether the Hon. Minister for Land Revenue is not aware that digging of wells in the Ceded Districts is equally difficult? "

THE HON. SRI KALA VENKATA RAO :—" Unfortunately in the Ceded Districts, God has not given sufficient rains to form tanks."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Is not the Hon. Minister for Land Revenue aware that a perusal of the records will show that construction of tanks is one of the methods by which water can be conserved in the Ceded Districts? "

THE HON. SRI KALA VENKATA RAO :—" Yes. That will come under the Tank Restoration Scheme and not under the Well Subsidy Scheme and we will do our best."

Water rates charged in different districts.

* 60 Q.—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the water rates charged in the several districts are the same;

(b) if the answer to (a) is in the negative, what the basis is for fixing them;

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(*c*) what the rates are (district-war);

(*d*) whether it is a fact that in certain districts the levy of a flat rate is still in vogue while in others differential water-rate system prevails; and

(*e*) whether the Government have formulated any policy regarding the imposition of these rates and if so, what it is?

THE HON. SRI KALA VENKATA RAO :—" (*a*) No.

" (*b*) & (*c*) The following systems of water rates are in force, namely :—

(i) standard rates of water cess;

(ii) differential rates of water cess; and

(iii) special rates fixed for particular irrigation projects.

The scale of charges under particular projects depends on the special circumstances, particularly capital outlay of each project and cannot therefore be uniform. The basic principle of the differential water-rate system is that the charge for the use of water represents the difference between the assessment of the land as dry and the assessment payable had it been registered as wet. This difference varies with each classification of the soil.[a] Under the standard scale of rates of water cess (shown in the Annexure) the charge for water for a particular crop, say wet or dry, varies according as the irrigation is under a first-class source or a second-class source.

The differential water-rate system prevails in the tracts mentioned below :—

The districts of Vizagapatam (tract served by Nagavalli Project), Kurnool, Cuddapah, Anantapur (Kadiri taluk), Chittoor (Vayalpad and Madanapalle taluks), Nellore, Chingleput, Coimbatore, Trichinopoly (Karur taluk) and Samballi, Navapatti, Dinnapatti, Singiripatti, Mulakkadu, Polamalai, Alamarattupatti, Kulathur, Kannamudichchi and Kaveripuram villages in Omalur taluk of Salem district.

The differential water rates in force in the deltaic tracts and certain other areas in the districts of East Godavari, West Godavari, Kistna and Guntur were replaced in 1932 by fixed rates of water cess. No revised rates have been introduced in other districts so far, the existing rates being either the differential water rates or the standard rates of water cess barring, however, the special rates fixed by Government from time to time, when new irrigation works or improvements to existing works were undertaken.

" (*d*) Yes.

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[a] Printed as Appendix IV on page 302 infra.

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"(e) Water cess is levied for the supply of water to lands which have no claim as of right to such water for irrigation, e.g., dry lands, and the principle generally followed in fixing the rates is to fix them mainly with reference to the cost of supplying the water. Water cess is therefore largely a payment for services rendered."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know whether in view of the differential rates that exist, he will examine the question and see whether they are fair, whether they should be modified, or whether they should form part of the Land Revenue reform ? "

THE HON. SRI KALA VENKATA RAO :—" Certainly, Sir."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" I am very sorry I could not come in time. I am not at all well and I am afraid I have to absent myself for a good part of the day. I hope hon. Members will excuse me."

[*Note.*—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II.—ADJOURNMENT MOTION *RE* CUT IN PETROL RATIONS FOR LORRIES AND PUBLIC CARRIERS.

* THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS :—" Mr. President, Sir, I am glad that hon. Mr. Suryanarayana Rao has drawn the attention of the House to the question of petrol rationing and thereby enabled the Government to make a statement on the petrol position. I think it will clear all misapprehensions and misunderstandings on the question. Hon. Members of the House are well aware that so far as the question of petrol is concerned the stocks are held by the Government of India and allocations of quotas are made by the Central Government to the various Provincial Governments on a prescribed basis. The general position for the last two or three years has been that the number of vehicles has been on the increase, whereas the quota of petrol available has been more or less stationary. I think we are all familiar with the food position in the province especially after the Food debate in this House. I may perhaps compare this to the position of a family where bread rationing is more or less stationary and where more and more mouths are coming in for being fed. Here I may be allowed to quote some figures. The quota allotted to the Province of Madras for the quarter ending 31st July 1947 is 41;58 lakhs of gallons and of this 41·58 lakhs of gallons the allocation has been made in the following manner as regards different requirements :—

14·74 lakhs for buses.
12·43 lakhs for lorries.
7·23 lakhs for cars and cycles.
5·13 lakhs for miscellaneous items.
·91 lakhs for taxis.

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